

High Court of Judiciary
Sheriff Court Criminal Appeals
Guidance Note for Practitioners

29th May 2020

COVID -19

Lodging of electronic documents

1. This guidance has effect from 29th May 2020 and will cease to have effect from 19 June 2020 unless extended. The guidance will be subject to ongoing review.
2. The general purpose of this guidance is to facilitate the continued efficient disposal of appeal court business during the Covid-19 emergency.
3. With effect from today any documents lodged in respect of both High Court and Sheriff criminal appeal court business can be submitted by email to the email addresses set out in paragraph 13 of this. Such documents are to be lodged timeously.
4. Where a document requires to be signed, a scanned signature will be acceptable.
5. Principal copies of any document requiring a wet signature will require to be lodged on a later date.
6. In respect of any productions, only the inventory of productions should be lodged by email. Principal productions should be lodged as soon as it is safe and secure to do so.
7. Lists of authorities should also have attached copies of the authorities referred to.

Hearings

8. All procedural hearings fixed up to and including 19 June 2020 will automatically be reassigned, unless they can proceed by way of written submissions before the court.
9. Sheriff Appeal Court Criminal hearings scheduled up to and including 19 June 2020 will be automatically reassigned unless the appellant and the crown indicate that the hearing can proceed by way of written submissions before the court.
10. Where possible, High Court Appeal hearings will take place using the Webex video conferencing system. Parties who have High Court Appeal Hearings scheduled to take place after 29 May 2020 will be contacted by the Appeal Clerks to determine whether their appeals are able to proceed using this system. Cases not able to proceed using Webex will be automatically reassigned unless the appellant and the crown indicate that the hearing can proceed by way of written submissions before the court.
11. Where it is agreed that an appeal can proceed by way of Webex video conferencing the Appeal Clerks will confirm the manner in which hearings will be conducted and make the necessary technical arrangements. All remote hearing access codes will be provided to

parties by the Appeal Clerks. Separate guidance for the media who wish to observe WebEx video hearings is available on the SCTS website.

12. Interim Liberation Hearings will continue to be considered. In the current climate full written submissions should be made in support of application for bail and copied to Crown Office. The matter will be considered without the need for personal appearance.

E-Mail addresses

13. Only the undernoted e-mail addresses will be supervised. A receipt e-mail will be generated for each item lodged.

Summary Appeals – summaryappeals@scotcourts.gov.uk

Solemn Appeals – solemnappeals@scotcourts.gov.uk

High Court of Justiciary

29 May 2020